JSC begins planning for Go Texan/Rodeo activities

JSC has launched its plans for the second annual JSC Rodeo Liftoff activities, combining efforts with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the local NASA/Clear Creek/Friendswood Go Texan Association.

"We will be more involved with the two associations this year," said Larry Neu, chairman of the planning committee coordinating the activities. "Like last year, we will have representatives from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Speakers Bureau during lunch on Jan. 30 at the Bldgs. 3 and 11 cafeterias, as well as rodeo clowns and a small animal presentation at the child care center."

These activities preface a lunch time event on Feb. 5 where the Texas Independence Trail Riders will pass through the center, stopping for lunch at Rocket Park. JSC employees are invited to attend the festivities at Rocket Park that include live entertainment and a sneak preview of the Longhorn Project.

"The Longhorn project is a cooperative effort with JSC and the Clear Creek School District, the local Go Texan subcommittee and the Livestock Show and Rodeo officials to further agricultural education at the high school level," Neu said. "All of these events with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the local Go Texan committee are not only entertaining to our employees but serve to highlight the great work these groups do with our children to promote education and the numerous scholarships they award to area high school seniors."

Each year, a $10,000, four-year scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior at each of our four local high schools—Clear Lake, Clear Creek, Clear Brook and Friendswood.

"You don't have to like cows and horses to appreciate the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, you only have to like kids," said Gene Hollier, one of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Speakers Bureau volunteers.

JSC employees who ride horses will once again stage a "circle" trail ride in conjunction with the Texas Independence Trail riders. The JSC horsemen and women will meet the Independence trail ride at the main gate on Feb. 5 and escort them around the center. After the Independence Trail Riders exit the center, the JSC circle riders will stop by the child care center. Employees interested in joining in the circle trail ride should contact Rose Gardner-DeLapp at x30331.

Employees who would like to join the Rodeo Liftoff planning committee should contact Neu at x32865.

Godwin gets new deputy job

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director of Flight Crew Operations. Godwin replaces Robert "Hoot" Gibson who left NASA last month to pursue private business interests.

Goodwin is a three-time shuttle veteran. She was a mission specialist on STS-37, STS-59 and STS-76. Godwin was the first astronaut to perform a space walk while docked to an orbiting station. Goodwin and Rich Clifford mounted experiment packages on the Mir docking module to detect contamination.

STS-86 to feature Mir space walk

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of Mir in a dress rehearsal for the first shuttle/Mir docking.

Highlights of the nine-day mission include five days of docked operations between *Atlantis* and Mir and the exchange of crew members Foale and Lawrence to continue a permanent American presence on the Russia complex. A space walk is scheduled to retrieve the four Mir Environmental Effects Payloads that were attached to Mir's docking module by Linda Godwin and Rich Clifford during STS-76 to characterize the environment surrounding Mir. *Atlantis* will carry the Spacehab double module to support the transfer of logistics and supplies to Mir and the return of experiment hardware and specimens to Earth.

JSC Photo by Benny Benavides

JSC employees take advantage of special prices on books during the "Reading is Fun" Book Fair held this week in the Bldg. 3 cafeteria.

Engineering tops JSC CFC contributions

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Mission Operations, Engineering Directorate, Technology Transfer and Commercialization Office, Office of Chief Financial Officer, Space Shuttle Program Office, Space Operations Office, EVA Project Office and Phase 1 Program Office.

A total of 2,150 out of 3,297 employees participated. The Office of the Director, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Equal Opportunity Programs Office, Legal Office, Technology Transfer and Commercialization Office, Space Operations Management Office, EVA Project Office and the Phase 1 Program Office all reported 100 percent or more participation. Additionally, $1,025 in contributions were received from six JSC retirees. Engineering contributed the largest dollar amount, with $131,488.96 or 108 percent of its goal and Mission Operations contributed the next largest, $78,897.86 or 107 percent.

Donations are still being accepted. For information call x39168.

Crew recalls team work during mission

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see the trailing satellites at sun rise.

"This was the first time I had been able to do a rendezvous," Rominger said. "It was just incredible having two satellites out there at the same time. In the morning when the sun would rise, they were just tremendously bright stars, trailing along behind us. It was just an incredible experience to see these bright stars."

Jernigan reflected on how a stuck hatch will give the space program an advantage in future flights.

"This flight offered all of us a bit of everything the space program has to offer," Jernigan said. "It offered the excitement of two deploys, rendezvous and retrievals and also the frustration of a hatch that wouldn't open and EVAs left undone. I bet it is a long, long time before we ever have another hatch problem. NASA will make the most of the lesson it has learned."

Jones said that he would never forget the team work during the mission.

"There were a lot of bright minds that spent many sleepless nights and hours over the holiday weekend working on strategies for opening up our balky hatch," Jones said. "It just goes to show the kind of team we have here at NASA. Some of the strategies for getting the hatch open had we had to go outside and do a repair job on the shuttle were very clever and inventive."

Musgrave recounted that the long mission gave him a sense of what space is all about.

"This mission was long enough so you had some time to stop and think about what space was about," Musgrave said. "Time to have an experience of space to explore the heavens, to explore the Earth and think about what that is all about and get a feel for space."

Blaha recalls Progress docking

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occur. Again, Valarie was monitoring the event with his backup control system in the base block of Mir.

The docking felt quite firm. Five times stronger than I remembered the shuttle docking with Mir felt over two months ago. We verified we had a good seal before opening the hatch at about 5:30 a.m. We were supposed to go to sleep at 6 a.m. Of course, we stayed up a few extra minutes as we searched for our crew packages. Once we found our packages, it was like Christmas and a birthday all rolled together when you were 5 years old. We really had a lot of fun reading mail, laughing, opening presents, eating fresh tomatoes, cheese, etc. It was an experience I will always remember.

The Progress brought us a lot of food, fresh water, fuel for the reaction control jets, oxygen, spare parts needed to repair systems, equipment for a space walk, science equipment, towels and clothes.

Answers to the annual NASA Trivia Challenge

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1. The forward fuselage of *Endeavour* during manufacturing.

2. Cosmonaut Aleksey Leonov and Astronaut Thomas Stafford shook hands in orbit when the American Apollo spacecraft docked the Russian Soyuz spacecraft during the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project on July 17, 1975.

3. The two largest volcanoes on Mars are Olympus Mons at latitude 18 north, longitude 133 and Alba Patera 1,100 miles to the northeast.

4. One, STS-3 was diverted from Edwards Air Force Base due to weather.

5. The Viking Lander 1 touch down at Cyryse Planitia, 22.27 degrees north latitude and 47.97 degrees longitude.

6. The Viking Lander 2 touch down at Utopia Planitia, 47.67 degrees north latitude and 225.74 degrees longitude.

7. 4,014 miles.

8. Pioneer aviator and Army second Lieutenant Eric Ellington, killed on a training flight near San Diego, Calif.

9. November 27, 1917.

10. Tom Akers who has 29 hours and 40 minutes of space walking experience during STS-49 and STS-61.

11. Amelia Earhart's scarf was flown by Commander Loren Shriver on STS-31, April 24, 1990.

12. Eugene Cernan who flew on Gemini 9 and Apollo 17 has 24 hours and 14 minutes.

13. Richard Truly.

14. Two golf balls.

15. Dante.

16. 99.

17. STS-77 in May of 1996.

18. John Casper.

19. Mark Lee and Jan Davis on STS-47 in September of 1992.

20. Twenty five. Andrew Thomas and Philip Chapman, Australia; Marc Garneau, Chris Hadfield and David Williams in Canada; Shannon Lucid in China; Franklin Chang-Diaz Costa Rica; Mike Foale, England; Jean-Francios Clervoy, Michel Tognini and Jean-Loup Chretien, France; William Anders, Hong-Kong; Kalpana Chawla, India; Maurizio Cheli and Michael Collins Italy; Koichi Wakata and Takao Doi Japan; James Newman Pacific Islands; Carlos Noriega, Peru; Sergei Krikalev and Vladimir Titov Russia; Michael Lopez-Alegria Spain; Claude Nicollier, Switzerland; John Llewellyn, Wales and Stephen Thorne, West Germany.

21. Alaska, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada and Wyoming.

22. Ten.

23. Bruce Melnick.

24. Six. Canada, ESA, Italy, Japan, Russia and the U.S.

25. 470 tons or 940 thousand pounds.

26. Seven.

27. The U.S. laboratory, the U.S. built Centrifuge Accommodation Module, European Space Agency's Columbus Orbital Facility, the Japanese Experiment Module and three Russian Research modules.

28. 72. 27 shuttle flights, 44 Russian flights and 1 ESA flight.

29. November, 1964.

30. He logged over 4,500 hours in jet, reciprocating, and rotary wing aircraft for the U.S. Air Force.

31. Three. Linda Godwin, Kathy Sullivan, Kathy Thornton.

32. All three.

33. The Mariner program performed several flybys and fly-arounds of the Red Planet from 1964 to 1971.

34. The Viking Missions landed on Mars in July and September of 1976.

35. Three Soviet spacecraft had made the attempt. Mars-2 and Mars-6 apparently crashed while attempting to land, and Mars-3 soft landed safely but stopped operating after less than 20 seconds on the surface.

36. "Cosmos" the Moon and "Gazer" the star.

37. Methane.

38. Charon.

39. The Mir Base Block was launched in 1986.

40. Five. Spectra, Kvant 2, Kristall, Priroda and the Mir Base Block.

41. The Statue of Liberty at 151 feet.

42. Ten thousand tasks over a 65 day period.

43. Professor James Van Allen of the University of Iowa was the originator of experiments launched on the Explorer I satellite which discovered these belts of radiation that now bear his name.

44. "Sojourner" which means traveler was named after Sojourner Truth, an African American reformist, who lived during the Civil War and selected from a group of essays submitted by a students.

45. July 4, 1997 in Area Vallis, 19.5 degrees north latitude, 32.8 degrees west longitude about 525 miles southeast of the Viking 1.

46. Offers maximum sunshine for Sojourner's solar power and offers a variety of rocks.

47. By a 1.9 square foot solar array that will provide several hours per day of power. It also has a battery backup.

48. NASA's Strategic Plan states that "NASA is an investment in America's future. As explorers, pioneers and innovators, we boldly expand frontiers in air and space to inspire and serve America and to benefit the quality of life on Earth."

49. Five.

50. Mission to Planet Earth, Aeronautics, Human Exploration and Development of Space, Space Science and Space Technology.

51. Bldg. T-585 Rm. 122.

52. Approval date.

53. The Employee Express number to call from home is 1-800-571-3453, from work call 912-757-3169.

54. Employees must have a medical officer sign in Block 19.

55. Terry McDonald.

56. Chapter 202, Office safety.

57. Get out and call x33333.

58. http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/pao/roundup/weekly/

59. The approach phase begins 45 days before entry and ends 12 hours prior to entry.

60. Steven Smith on STS-68 on Sept. 30, 1994.

61. E. C. Stone.

62. The landing site for the Mars Pathfinder.

63. Skylab trainer.

64. First manned Skylab Commander Charles Conrad.

65. The five remaining Mercury astronauts. From left are, Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Walter Schirra and Alan Shepard.